submitted two interim reports covering wide range of issues such as life-saving support programme for farming community, to enhance productivity, coastal zone agriculture, cultivation and marketing of medicinal plants, organic farming, etc.;

(b) if so, whether Government have studied those recommendations; and

(c) if so, the recommendations accepted by Government and measures taken or proposed to be taken to implement those recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Inter-Departmental consultations have been initiated for appropriate action on the recommendations made by the Commission in its two interim reports.

Production agreement of MDFVL

†1188. DR. PRABHA THAKUR:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Mother Dairy Fruits and Vegetables Private Limited a co-company of National Dairy Development Board has entered in an agreement relating to production with other private companies like Modern Food Limited, Karnal, Amrit Food Private Limited, Ghaziabad and Dynamics Dairy, Baramati; and

(b) if so, whether any p;rior permission was taken from Government for it, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

Land Holding

1189. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the size of agricultural land holding is decreasing day by day and is becoming unviable to earn livelihood;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) at present, what is the average land holding in the country;

(c) the steps Government propose to take regarding checking subdivision/fragmentation of land;

(d) the minimum quantum of agricultural land holding required to make farming a viable earning;

(e) whether shrinking of land holdings is an alarming phenomena for growth of agricultural sector; and

(f) if so, the remedial and preventive measures taken therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (e) The average size of land holdings has decreased from 2.28 ha. in 1970-71 to 1.41 ha. In 1995-96. The fragmentation of land holdings affects agricultural operations adversely through imbalance in the land-man ratio, higher cost of cultivation per unit of land, difficulty in irrigation and soil conservation practices and low productivity per unit of land holding.

(b) As per Agriculture Census 1995-96, the average size of operational holdings is 1.41 ha.

(c) and (f) Under the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India land and its management is in the State list. Some State Governments have taken-up the consolidation of land holdings.

(d) In view of the variable cropping conditions affecting crop yields across different regions of the country, there can be no single minimum size of holding required to make farming viable.

Crops under NAIS in Kerala

1190. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the crop presently covered in Kerala under the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme;

(b) whether the State Government has sought the intervention of Government to include certain other perennial crops in the coverage of the Scheme; and

(c) whether Government would consider to accord sanction for the above proposal, if any, and the reaction of Government thereto?